

# NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



## Information Letter



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### Army Asks Bids on Canned Foods

The Quartermaster Supply Officer of the Army is asking for bids on supplies, bids to be opened at 9.00 A. M., August 11th. The canned foods included in the invitation are: Apples, apple butter, apricots, asparagus, lima beans, string beans, wax beans, beets, blackberries, blueberries, cabbage, catsup, cherries, cream style corn, loganberries, oysters, peaches, pears, green peas, pickles, pineapple, pumpkin, rhubarb, salmon, sauerkraut, soups, and spinach. Copies of schedules on which to submit bids may be obtained from the Quartermaster Supply Officer at Brooklyn, N. Y.

### Corn Sugar Hearing

In the previous issue of the Information Letter attention was called to a hearing before the Secretary of Agriculture regarding the use of corn sugar as a substitute for cane sugar in prepared food products and the necessity of declaring the presence of corn sugar on the labels of such products.

The hearing was held before the Secretary of Agriculture on July 25. Arguments for a modification in the present policy of the Department of Agriculture regarding the declaration of added corn sugar in prepared foods were presented by the Corn Products Refining Company, which was represented by Judge W. G. Holt and Dr. W. R. Cathcart; and the American Farm Bureau Federation, represented by Mr. W. R. Ogg and Mr. C. R. White.

Those who appeared at the hearing in opposition to any change in the present policy of the Department and the organ-

ization which they represented were, Congressman Cochran of Missouri; Congressman Menges of Pennsylvania; Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, representing consumers and several women's organizations; Mr. William C. Geagley, Secretary of the Association of Dairy, Food and Drug Officials; Mr. Herbert E. Powell, Commissioner of Agriculture of Michigan; Mrs. Sarah Vance Dugan, Food Commissioner of Kentucky and Secretary of the South Central Food Officials; Mr. A. L. Sullivan, Food Commissioner of Maryland and Secretary of the Atlantic States Food Association; Dr. A. T. McCormack, Health Officer of Kentucky and representative of the State and Provincial Health Authorities of North America; Mr. B. A. Kozicke of the National Wholesale Grocers Association; Mr. George S. Demuth, Editor of "Gleanings in Bee Culture"; Mr. E. G. Brown, representing bee keepers of the Corn Belt; Mr. Frank E. Gorrell and Dr. W. D. Bigelow of the National Canners Association.

At the conclusion of the hearing Secretary of Agriculture Hyde announced that the various statements made at the hearing would be given consideration by the Department, and that an opportunity would also be afforded to anyone interested in this matter to file supplementary statements with the Department on or before August first.

#### Imports of Tomato Products

Imports of canned tomatoes in June were a great deal less than those for May of this year and for June, 1929. Tomato paste imports were considerably less than those for May, and less also than the imports for June of last year. The following table, compiled from Department of Commerce records, shows the monthly imports:

	Canned Tomatoes		Tomato Paste	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
<b>1929</b>				
January .....	11,584,835	\$891,913	838,689	\$117,092
February .....	10,670,274	605,850	831,929	116,933
March .....	8,932,126	525,138	775,996	112,341
April .....	7,514,409	448,369	866,977	136,149
May .....	10,692,992	579,633	481,038	57,783
June .....	9,367,180	367,616	648,921	95,830
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>57,561,847</b>	<b>3,418,466</b>	<b>4,418,530</b>	<b>636,088</b>
<b>1928</b>				
January .....	8,989,179	427,845	1,635,369	129,824
February .....	3,684,919	208,425	1,630,593	88,542
March .....	2,902,848	139,808	638,034	37,749
April .....	3,425,074	291,292	932,968	83,269
May .....	6,458,591	308,230	2,368,368	246,630
June .....	388,222	21,991	455,692	43,039
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>30,143,226</b>	<b>1,472,611</b>	<b>7,101,904</b>	<b>645,907</b>

### Truck Crop Markets

Extremely high temperatures during the week ended July 26 were still affecting crops and markets, according to the weekly statement of the U. S. Market News Service. Rain was badly needed in most parts of the country.

A temporary reduction of apple shipments occurred last week as Delaware dropped to 105 cars, Illinois to 35 and New Jersey to 55 cars. Northern California apple output was maintained at 425 cars, or three times as many as a year ago. The season opened in Idaho. Total forwardings of apples were only 750 cars, but should increase again later.

Cherry shipments were down to 75 cars for the week, chiefly from Oregon, Wisconsin and Michigan.

Movement of grapes increased to 385 cars, of which California furnished 372. Ozark grapes had started moving from Arkansas.

Orange shipments from California totaled 830 cars. New-crop grapefruit was already coming from Florida.

Pears increased to 1,280 cars in California, with 40 from several other sections. Movement of pears was 57 per cent heavier than during the same week last season.

Plum and prune forwardings decreased to 365 cars, seven of which came from Washington and all the others from California.

Cabbage movement was heavier, totaling 175 cars for the week, mainly from Iowa and Colorado. Michigan shipped 85 cars of celery and southern California only 17 cars.

Output of cucumbers had decreased to 95 cars, chiefly from Maryland, New Jersey and Illinois.

Green pea shipment from New York and Washington were nearly equal, about 125 cars from each state. Idaho and Colorado also shipped quite a number of cars, but the week's total movement was down to 290 cars.

Peach movement was very active, about four times heavier than the week before, and peak shipments may have been completed in Georgia and North Carolina. Georgia increased rapidly to 2,690 cars and North Carolina to 885 cars last week. California forwarded 1,720 and South Carolina 230 cars. The season was opening in Maryland, Delaware and Tennessee.

Tomato shipments were down to 600 cars for the week. Tennessee forwarded only 100, Maryland 95, and Ohio and Illinois 75 each. Light shipments came from many other states.

Combined forwardings of 33 fruits and vegetables increased to 26,660 cars, because of heavier movement of grapes, lettuce, peaches, pears, and watermelons. Total shipments were nearly 8,000 cars heavier than a year ago.

Commodity	CARLOT SHIPMENTS			Total this season to July 26	Total last season to July 27	Total last season
	July 20-26 1930	July 18-19 1929	July 21-27 1929			
Apples, total	748	1,006	437	3,224	2,308	162,783
Eastern states	302	581	288	2,061	2,098	51,419
Western states	446	425	149	1,163	210	31,364
Cabbage	174	191	213	13,891	22,751	44,193
Carrots	28	24	34	9,426	9,082	12,123
Cherries	73	132	120	2,465	2,143	2,299
Cucumbers	93	265	202	8,999	6,477	7,456
Green peas	292	489	179	3,318	8,887	5,197
Mixed deciduous fruit	392	260	276	1,666	1,500	5,192
Mixed vegetables	417	400	466	20,130	21,677	32,422
Peaches	5,968	1,410	3,673	11,040	10,779	35,431
Pears	1,222	1,625	841	8,207	1,825	21,146
Peppers	47	80	56	2,089	2,891	3,285
Plums and prunes	367	413	124	3,971	1,518	6,046
Spinach	14	4	3	8,342	6,743	19,233
String beans	36	42	22	8,587	7,230	6,627
Tomatoes	600	943	669	21,866	22,021	31,946

### Canned Foods Exports in June

Exports of canned foods in June, as compared with the same month last year, showed decreases in shipments of canned vegetables, condensed and evaporated milk, fruits and salmon. There were slight increases in the exports of canned meats and sardines. The following table, compiled from records of the U. S. Department of Commerce, gives the detailed figures for various products:

Articles	June, 1929		June, 1930	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Canned meats, total	1,196,312	\$435,443	1,505,440	\$340,313
Beef	284,143	105,874	147,886	64,131
Pork	719,073	260,298	1,102,300	400,298
Sausage	122,101	37,488	81,383	22,893
Other	61,195	25,785	173,871	53,396
Canned vegetables, total	7,817,662	\$90,233	4,895,806	\$37,574
Asparagus	1,185,806	61,467	1,781,849	265,667
Baked beans, and pork and beans	365,721	25,136	724,943	43,405
Corn	373,447	42,742	470,277	28,466
Peas	257,231	21,902	262,400	23,960
Soups	1,540,979	153,398	993,855	112,908
Tomatoes	166,244	13,972	174,123	13,860
Other	728,234	46,036	458,380	39,348
Condensed milk	3,270,549	533,850	2,681,596	431,089
Evaporated milk	7,120,738	694,779	5,416,846	533,738
Canned fruits, total	14,870,564	1,495,974	11,097,486	1,164,517
Apples and applesauce	545,817	24,139	308,952	19,397
Apricots	863,478	78,033	1,274,000	127,810
Loganberries				101,604
Other berries	300,661	51,938	132,571	22,459
Cherries	88,390	17,119	105,063	16,823
Fruits for salad	3,752,678	520,760	2,201,503	234,669
Peaches	3,791,123	368,926	2,323,992	235,289
Pears	990,679	113,889	3,378,629	364,707
Pineapple	700,716	74,809	274,263	28,481
Prunes	196,127	18,583	224,266	27,318
Other	921,404	87,732	577,493	55,073
Salmon	863,913	138,264	267,861	30,270
Sardines	6,296,531	502,536	8,653,292	586,644

### Honolulu Pineapple Pack

A pineapple pack of 10,000,000 cases for the current season seems assured, according to information radioed to the Department of Commerce on July 18, by the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce. Honolulu canneries are working on a day and night schedule and employing 8,000 workers, while those at Kauai and Maui are employing about 4,000. The peak of the harvest will be reached in Oahu and Molokai during the current week, but in Maui and Lanai not until the middle of August.

### Navy Asks Bids on Canned Corn

The Navy Department is asking for bids on a quantity of canned corn, for delivery to a number of Naval Supply Depots. Bids are to be opened at 10.00 A. M., September 16, and copies of the schedules on which to submit bids may be obtained from the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

### Evaporated and Condensed Milk Markets

Evaporated milk production is reported as decreasing rapidly, and the make continues well below last year's level. During the first half of 1930 the make of evaporated case goods fell 7.5 per cent short of that for the same period of 1929, but production during June was 15.8 per cent below that for the same month a year ago, and only 4.3 per cent above that of May. Production of evaporated case goods during June, the month of heaviest manufacture, amounted to approximately 179,600,000 pounds, in comparison with 207,580,000 pounds during 1929, and 182,990,000 pounds in 1928. Stocks of evaporated milk on July 1 were practically the same, or only 0.8 per cent heavier, than on the same date a year ago. The date of heaviest comparative holdings within the last year was on September 1, 1929, when stocks were 69 per cent heavier than on the same date a year earlier. The increase in holdings during June amounted to 13.75 per cent, compared with a 39 per cent increase in June last year. The comparatively small increase in stocks during June this year was no doubt a result of the continued light production and the favorable trade output during the month.

Condensed milk stocks on July 1 were still over 11 per cent heavier than a year ago. They appear quite favorable, however, when one considers that only four months ago they were 216 per cent heavier than the previous year. The increase during the month amounted to only 16 per cent in comparison with

41 per cent during the same month a year ago. Production continues increasingly lighter than a year ago. During June the make was around 27 per cent under that of the same month a year ago, and, instead of showing a further normal seasonal increase for the month, was approximately 4 per cent lighter than during May, in comparison with a seasonal increase of around 4 per cent during the same month last year.

#### Business Conditions

Business for the week ended July 26, as indicated by the volume of checks presented for payment, declined from the preceding period and was below the level of the week ended July 27, 1929, according to the U. S. Department of Commerce.

Wholesale prices showed but slight change from a week ago, but were 16 per cent lower than the corresponding period last year.

Bank loans and discounts of member banks of the Federal Reserve system for the week ended July 26 recorded but slight change when compared with the preceding period and the corresponding week in 1929. Average prices for representative stocks showed no change from last week but were much lower than a year ago. Bond prices, on the other hand, recorded increases over both prior periods. Interest rates for call money fell off, while those for time money were higher than last week. Both rates were materially lower than a year ago.

Bank loans and discounts and the prices of leading stocks for the week ended July 26, 1930, recorded increases over the week ended July 28, 1928, two years ago.

Movement of commodities by rail, according to statistics for the latest reported week, increased above the preceding week, but was less than for the same week in 1929.

#### CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended July 19.....	928,256	359,168	233,131	335,957
Preceding week .....	915,983	335,633	280,399	330,633
Corresponding week, 1929.....	1,079,968	495,611	257,570	326,787
Corresponding week, 1928.....	1,033,848	410,360	253,702	369,786

#### Alaska Salmon Pack

Preliminary reports to the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries indicate that a considerably reduced pack of canned salmon will be made in Alaska during the current season of 1930, as compared with the total of 5,370,159 cases, upon the basis of 48 one-pound cans per case, packed in 1929.



### Asparagus Pack in California

The California asparagus pack for 1930, compiled from records of the Cannery League of California, is divided into the following two groups:

	Cases
Regular pack .....	2,410,939
All green .....	232,362
Total .....	2,643,301

The total pack in 1929 was 2,672,637 cases. This total was not then segregated into different classes.

### Lima Bean Spraying

Spraying lima beans just before the plants are in full bloom, with later applications if needed, may mean the difference between a crop and complete loss from mildew or bacterial spot, according to the plant disease specialist of the New York Experiment Station at Geneva, who is making a study of diseases of vegetable crops. While spraying after the pods are set will probably help reduce the loss from disease, the best results are obtained when the first application of the spray is made before the pods form.

The spray mixture recommended contains four parts of copper sulfate, six parts of hydrated lime and fifty gallons of water. Three to six additional applications after the pods are set may be needed to hold the diseases in check, depending upon the season.

The regular traction potato sprayer is said to be easily adapted to the spraying of large plantings of lima beans by making a few simple adjustments that will insure complete covering of the plants with the spray material. If a dust is to be used in place of the spray, it is recommended that either a 15-85 or 20-80 copper lime dust without poison be used. In the Station tests, however, dusts were not as effective as sprays in controlling lima bean diseases. The Experiment Station has a bulletin describing experiments and giving directions for spraying lima beans which may be had free of charge upon request.

### Petition for Modification of Packers' Consent Decree

According to an open letter from the Attorney General of the United States to the President of the Senate, the meat packers have filed petitions with the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia for a modification of the packers' consent decree. The wholesale grocers' associations have asked the Court to dis-

miss these petitions and their motion was overruled. The petitions will therefore be argued on their merits before the Court, which has definitely set the hearing for October 7th, 1930.

#### **Rapid Development in Australia's Fruit-Canning Industry**

Australia's canned fruit industry has experienced an unusually rapid development in recent years, according to a bulletin which the Commerce Department's foodstuffs division has just issued. The bulletin, which contains the results of a survey made by the American trade commissioner, shows that the Australian output of canned apricots, peaches and pears rose from 550,000 cases in the fruit year 1921-22 to 1,626,000 in 1927-28. Approximately one-third of this production is marketed overseas, exports in the latter period amounting to 537,000 cases. The United Kingdom absorbs about 90 per cent of these shipments, the remainder going to New Zealand and Canada.

#### **Pineapple Peeling Machine Devised in Porto Rico**

A machine that, it is claimed, will peel a pineapple in 15 seconds, and reduce spoilage from 20 to 15 per cent, has been devised and built by a San Juan machine shop and has been found successful, states the assistant trade commissioner at San Juan, Porto Rico, in a report forwarded to the Department of Commerce under date of July 1.

The same organization recently built a hand-operated coring machine for field use, to remove the core of the fruit before it is sent into the cannery. An arrangement for coring and slicing may be added to the peeling machine, so that the whole operation can be performed at one time by a single operator. Patents have been applied for.

Considerable experimentation has been carried on in local canneries and all who have seen the peeler in operation seem of the opinion that it will be of considerable help in speeding up operations.

#### **New Zealand Increases Import Duties on Certain Foods**

Numerous increases in import duties became provisionally effective in New Zealand July 23, 1930, pending formal ratification by the Parliament, according to a cable to the Department of Commerce from the trade commissioner at Wellington. Among the items of interest to canners which are subject to increased duties are: Citrus fruit pulps and juices; preserved fruits, potted or preserved meats; and preserved vegetables.